

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 404 without my signature.

I am supportive of providing varied pathways, both traditional and expedited, which bring qualified and motivated teachers into the classroom. However, as drafted, this bill which would reestablish the California Preliminary (CAP) credential and impose a substantially more complicated process for teaching candidates to obtain a credential than any of the existing alternative credentialing programs. In fact, according to a 2003 Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) report, no district requested the issuance of a CAP credential because other alternatives became available. Teacher candidates already have several alternative credential pathways: the district and university intern programs, the SB 57 Early Completion option, Cal State Teach, and the Eminence Credential.

I would be open to working with Senator Migden to refine this measure to ensure a more efficient and streamlined alternative certification process for highly qualified subject matter experts to teach in our schools.

Until that time, I am unable to sign this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger